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Trump's nominee to lead a watchdog agency hits trouble over MLK and 'Nazi streak' text messages

By **KEVIN FREKING**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's pick to lead an office charged with protecting federal whistleblowers appeared to be in jeopardy on Tuesday after Senate Majority Leader John Thune said he hoped the White House would withdraw the nomination.

The growing opposition to Paul Ingrassia comes after a Politico report of a text chat that showed him saying the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday should be "tossed into the seventh circle of hell." Ingrassia also described himself in the chat as having "a Nazi streak" at times.

"He's not going to pass," Thune told reporters.

Two Republicans who serve on the committee with jurisdiction over the nomination for the Office of Special Counsel job, Sens. Rick Scott of Florida and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, said they do not support Ingrassia's confirmation.

"I'm a no. It never should have got this far," Johnson said Tuesday. "They ought to pull the nomination."

Republicans have been able to muscle through the vast majority of Trump's nominees in roll call votes despite stiff Democratic opposition. But there have been sporadic



Paul Ingrassia, arrives before Trump speaks during a summer soiree on the South Lawn of the White House, June 4, 2025, in Washington.

instances when Republicans have pushed back, generally behind the scenes, showing there are limits to their support.

Most notably, Matt Gaetz withdrew as Trump's first choice for attorney general soon after being tabbed for the job. In May, Trump pulled his nomination of Ed Martin Jr. to be the top federal prosecutor for the nation's capital, bowing to bipartisan concerns about the conservative activist's modest legal experience and support for

Jan. 6 rioters. And last month, the White House announced it would be withdrawing the nomination of E.J. Antoni to lead the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Antoni was supposed to succeed a BLS director who was fired following a disappointing jobs report.

According to texts viewed by Politico, Ingrassia told those in the chat that "MLK Jr. was the 1960s George Floyd and his 'holiday' should be ended and tossed into the seventh circle of hell where it

belongs." Politico also spoke to Ingrassia's lawyer, who said the text messages might have been manipulated or were missing context. The lawyer did not confirm the texts were authentic. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Ingrassia's texts, if authentic, were "foul and disqualifying." He said Trump should pull the nomination of Ingrassia, who works as the White House liaison for Homeland Security. "He should be fired from his current job within the ad-

ministration," Schumer said after reading some of the text messages on the Senate floor. "And he should never hold a position of leadership within the Republican Party or the government ever again."

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is scheduled to hear from Ingrassia on Thursday. It was unclear if anything on that front has changed with the panel's chairman, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., saying "we're going to know more on Thursday."

The Office of Special Counsel is an investigative and prosecutorial office that works to protect government employees and whistleblowers from retaliation for reporting wrongdoing. It's also responsible for enforcing the Hatch Act, which restricts the partisan political activities of government workers.

The office, now under the leadership of acting Director Jamieson Greer, confirmed in August that it was investigating former Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith on allegations his investigation into Trump constituted political activity. Smith's lawyers have said the investigation was "wholly without merit," based on an "imaginary and unfounded" premise. □

Associated Press



The U.S. Department of Education building is seen in Washington, on Nov. 18, 2024.

Associated Press

By **CORA LEWIS**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Trump administration has agreed to resume student loan forgiveness for an estimated 2.5 million borrowers who are enrolled in certain federal

repayment plans following a lawsuit from the American Federation of Teachers. Under the agreement reached Friday between the teachers union and the administration, the Education Department will process loan

Trump administration pledges to speed some student loan forgiveness after lawsuit

forgiveness for those eligible in certain repayment plans that offer lower monthly payments based on a borrower's earnings. The government had stopped providing forgiveness under those plans based on its interpretation of a different court decision. The agreement will also protect borrowers from being hit with high tax bills on debt due to be forgiven this year. "We took on the Trump administration when it refused to follow the law and denied borrowers the relief they were owed," AFT President Randi Weingarten said in a statement. "Our agreement means that those borrowers stuck in limbo can either get

immediate relief or finally see a light at the end of the tunnel." The Education Department said the Trump administration is reviewing forgiveness programs to identify ones that were not affected by court rulings that blocked much of the Biden administration's efforts to cancel student debt.

"The Administration looks forward to continuing its work to simplify the student loan repayment process through implementation of the President's One Big Beautiful Bill Act," the department said in a statement. Several forgiveness programs are included. According to the deal, the Trump administration must

cancel student debt for eligible borrowers enrolled in the following plans: income-driven repayment (IDR) plans, income-contingent repayment plans, Pay As You Earn (PAYE), and Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) plans.

If borrowers have made payments beyond what was needed for forgiveness, those payments will be reimbursed. The Education Department must also continue to process IDR and PSLF "buyback" applications. Balances forgiven before Dec. 31 will not be treated as taxable income, as they will in 2026 due to a recent change in tax law. □

Trump-Putin summit planned for Budapest is on hold after Rubio spoke with Lavrov, U.S. official says

By **MATTHEW LEE** and
CHRIS MEGERIAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's plan for a swift meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin is on hold, a U.S. official said Tuesday, the latest twist in his stop-and-go effort to resolve the war in Ukraine.

The meeting was announced last week and was supposed to take place in Budapest, Hungary, in the near future. However, the idea was paused after a call between U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, according to the official, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The decision to hold off on a meeting between Trump and Putin will likely relieve European leaders, who have accused Putin of stalling for time with diplomacy while trying to gain ground on the battlefield.

The leaders — including the British prime minister, French president and German chancellor — said they opposed any push to make Ukraine surrender land captured by Russian forces in return for peace, as Trump has occasionally suggested. They also plan to push forward with plans to use billions of dollars in frozen Russian assets to help fund Ukraine's war efforts, despite some misgivings about the legality and consequences of such a step.

Trump has not yet commented publicly about the change in plans for his meeting with Putin. They previously met in Alaska in August, but the encounter did not advance Trump's stalled attempts to end a war that began almost four years ago. The Kremlin didn't seem to be in a rush to get Trump and Putin together again either. Spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that "preparation is needed, serious preparation" before a meeting.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been trying to strengthen Ukraine's position by seeking long-range Tomahawk missiles

from the U.S., although Trump has waffled on whether he would provide them. "We need to end this war, and only pressure will lead to peace," Zelenskyy said Tuesday in a Telegram post. He noted that Putin returned to diplomacy and called Trump last week when it looked like Tomahawk missiles were a possibility. But "as soon as the pressure eased a little, the Russians began to try to drop diplomacy, postpone the dialogue," Zelenskyy said.

On Wednesday, Trump will hold talks with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, according to a White House official who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The official did not provide any detail about Trump's agenda for the talks. The military alliance has been coordinating deliveries of weapons to Ukraine, many of them purchased from the U.S. by Canada and European countries. A meeting of the Coalition of the Willing — a group of 35 countries who support Ukraine — is due to take place in London on Friday. Trump's stance on the war has shifted throughout the year. He initially focused on pressuring Ukraine to make concessions, but then grew frustrated with Putin's intransigence. Trump often complains that he thought his good relationship with his Russian counterpart would have made it easier to end the war.

Last month, Trump reversed his long-held position that Ukraine would have to give up land and suggested it could win back all the territory it has lost to Russia. But after a phone call with Putin last week and a subsequent meeting with Zelenskyy on Friday, Trump shifted his position again and called on Kyiv and Moscow to "stop where they are" in the more than three-year war.

On Sunday, Trump said the industrial Donbas region of eastern Ukraine should be "cut up," leaving most of it in Russian hands.

Trump said Monday that while he thinks it is possible

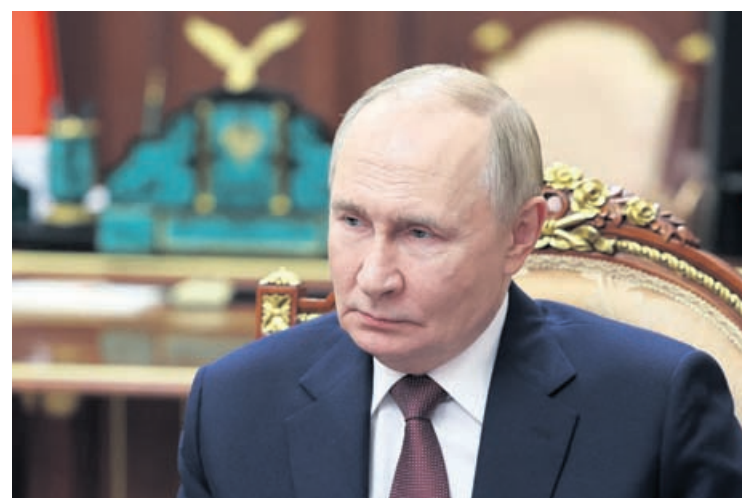
that Ukraine can ultimately defeat Russia, he's now doubtful it will happen.

Ukrainian and European leaders are trying hard to keep Trump on their side.

"We strongly support President Trump's position that the fighting should stop immediately, and that the current line of contact should be the starting point of negotiations," the leaders' statement said. "We can all see that Putin continues to choose violence and destruction."

Russia occupies about one fifth of Ukraine, but carving up their country in return for peace is unacceptable to Kyiv officials.

Also, a conflict frozen on the current front line could fester, with occupied areas of



Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to Vitaly Mutko, the chief executive officer of Dom.RF, not pictured, during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on Monday, Oct. 20, 2025.

Associated Press

Ukraine offering Moscow a springboard for new attacks in the future, Ukrainian and European officials fear.

The statement by the leaders of Ukraine, the U.K., Finland,

France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Denmark and EU officials came early in what Zelenskyy said Monday would be a week that is "very active in diplomacy." □

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Man pardoned after storming Capitol is charged with threatening to kill Hakeem Jeffries

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man whose convictions for storming the U.S. Capitol were erased by President Donald Trump's mass pardons has been arrested on a charge that he threatened to kill House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

Christopher P. Moynihan is accused of sending a text message on Friday noting that Jeffries, a New York Democrat, would be making a speech in New York City this week.

"I cannot allow this terrorist to live," Moynihan wrote, according to a report by a state police investigator. Moynihan also wrote that Jeffries "must be eliminated" and texted, "I will kill him for the future," the police report says.

Moynihan, of Clinton, New York, is charged with a felony count of making a terroristic threat. It was unclear if he had an attorney representing him in the case, and efforts to contact him and his parents by email and phone were unsuccessful.

Moynihan who's 34, was sentenced to 21 months in prison for joining a mob's Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.



This image from Senate Television shows Christopher Moynihan sitting in the Senate Chamber at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Jan. 6, 2021.

In January, he was among hundreds of convicted Capitol rioters who received a pardon from Trump on the Republican president's first day back in the White House. Jeffries thanked investigators "for their swift and decisive action to apprehend a dangerous individual who made a credible death threat against me with every intention to carry it out."

"Unfortunately, our brave men and women in law enforcement are being forced to spend their time keeping our communities safe from these violent individuals who should never have been pardoned," Jeffries said in a statement.

House Speaker Mike Johnson was asked about the case during a news conference on Tuesday and said he did

not know any details of the threat against Jeffries.

"We denounce violence from anybody, anytime. Those people should be arrested and tried," said Johnson, a Louisiana Republican.

The New York State Police said it was notified of the threat by an FBI task force on Saturday. Moynihan was arraigned on Sunday in a local court in New York's Dutchess

County. He is due back in the Town of Clinton Court on Thursday.

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi said his office is reviewing the case "for legal and factual sufficiency."

"Threats made against elected officials and members of the public will not be tolerated," Parisi said in a statement on Tuesday.

On Jan. 6, Moynihan breached police barricades before entering the Capitol through the Rotunda Door. He entered the Senate chamber, rifled through a notebook on a senator's desk and joined other rioters in shouting and chanting at the Senate dais, prosecutors said.

"Moynihan did not leave the Senate Chamber until he was forced out by police," they wrote.

In 2022, U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper convicted Moynihan of a felony for obstructing the Jan. 6 joint session of Congress for certifying Democrat Joe Biden's victory over Trump in the 2020 presidential election. Moynihan also pleaded guilty to five other riot-related counts. □

Associated Press

California man agrees to plead guilty to acting as Beijing's agent



American flags are displayed with Chinese flags on Sept. 16, 2018, in Beijing.

By **AMY TAXIN**

Associated Press

A California man has agreed to plead guilty to acting as an illegal agent for the Chinese government in Southern California while working as a campaign advisor for a local politician.

Yaoning "Mike" Sun is expect-

ed to appear in court in Los Angeles on Monday to enter his plea under a deal with federal prosecutors, according to a copy of the agreement available in online court records. It was signed by Sun, his attorney and a prosecutor earlier this month. If the plea is accepted by

a judge, Sun could face a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison, the agreement says.

The U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles declined to comment on the deal. Sun's attorney, Adam Olin, also declined to comment.

Under the agreement, Sun acknowledges acting as a foreign agent on behalf of the People's Republic of China from 2022 to 2024 without notifying the U.S. attorney general as required by law. Sun is a Chinese citizen living in the U.S. legally, the U.S. attorney's office said.

The case against Sun was filed during President Joe Biden's administration amid a time of rising concern that the Chinese government had cultivated a network of operatives to influence local elections in the U.S. to install politicians who were friendly

to Beijing and could help promote Chinese interests. Sun was accused of conspiring with Chen Jun, who was sentenced in New York to 20 months in prison for acting as an illegal agent of the Chinese government.

According to the plea deal, Sun received instructions from Chinese government officials to post pro-Beijing content on a website he ran with another individual who became a candidate for local office and won election in 2022. Sun worked as a campaign advisor for the individual and the following year drafted a report for Chinese officials seeking funding and assignments for more pro-Beijing activities, the agreement says.

"Defendant and Individual 1 received and executed directives from PRC government officials to post pro-PRC content on the website, and

sometimes sought approval from PRC government officials to post other pro-PRC content on the website," the agreement says.

The individual is not named in court papers. Sun was listed as a campaign treasurer for Arcadia City Council candidate Eileen Wang on a campaign statement filing stamped in February 2022, according to records on the city's website. Arcadia is a city of nearly 60,000 people northeast of Los Angeles with a large Asian population, according to census data.

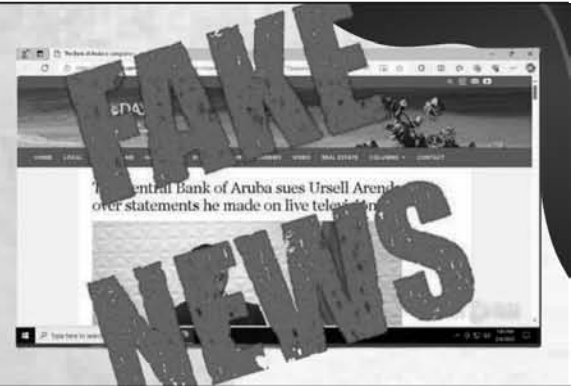
After Sun was arrested in December, Arcadia City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto said Sun had no affiliation with the city. Lazzaretto said Wang had not been charged and planned to cooperate with federal officials. A message was left Monday for Wang at Arcadia City Hall. □

Associated Press

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Myanmar military shuts down a major cybercrime center and detains over 2,000 people

By GRANT PECK
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Myanmar's military has shut down a major online scam operation near the border with Thailand, detaining more than 2,000 people and seizing dozens of Starlink satellite internet terminals, state media reported Monday.

Myanmar is notorious for hosting cyberscam operations responsible for bilking people all over the world. These usually involve gaining victims' confidence online with romantic ploys and bogus investment pitches. The centers are infamous for recruiting workers from other countries under false pretenses, promising them legitimate jobs and then holding them captive and forcing them to carry out criminal activities.

Scam operations were in the international spotlight last week when the United States and Britain enacted sanctions against organizers of a major Cambodian cyberscam gang, and its alleged ringleader was indicted by a federal court in New York.



In this image provided by the Myanmar military on Oct. 19, 2025, soldiers stand next to Starlink machines as they seize KK Park online scam center in Myawaddy township, Karen State, Myanmar. Associated Press

According to a report in Monday's Myanmar Alinn newspaper, the army raided KK Park, a well-documented cybercrime center, as part of operations starting in early September to suppress online fraud, illegal gambling, and cross-border cybercrime.

It published photos display-

ing seized Starlink equipment and soldiers said to be carrying out the raid, though it was unclear when exactly they were taken.

KK Park is located on the outskirts of Myawaddy, a major trading town on the border with Thailand in Myanmar's Kayin state. The area is only loosely under the control of

Myanmar's military government, and also falls under the influence of ethnic minority militias.

Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, the spokesperson for the military government, charged in a statement Monday night that the top leaders of the Karen National Union, an armed ethnic organization

opposed to army rule, were involved in the scam projects at KK Park.

The allegation was previously made based on claims that a company backed by the Karen group allowed the land to be leased. However, the Karen, who are part of the larger armed resistance movement in Myanmar's civil war, deny any involvement in the scams.

Myanmar Alinn said the army ascertained that more than 260 buildings were unregistered, and seized equipment, including 30 sets of Starlink satellite internet terminals. It said 2,198 individuals were detained though it did not give their nationalities.

Starlink is part of Elon Musk's SpaceX company and the terminals link to its satellites. It does not have licensed operations in Myanmar, but at least hundreds of terminals have been smuggled into the Southeast Asian nation. The company could not be immediately reached for comment Monday but its policy bans "conduct that is defamatory, fraudulent, obscene, or deceptive." □

Belize signs 'safe third country' agreement as part of Trump's immigration crackdown

By MEGAN JANETSKY
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The small Central American nation of Belize has signed a "safe third country" agreement with the United States, the two sides said on Monday, as the Trump administration seeks to ramp up deportations and dissuade migration north.

What the agreement entails wasn't immediately clear, but it comes as U.S. President Donald Trump has increasingly pressured countries in

Latin America and Africa to help him carry out his immigration agenda.

The deal appears to be similar to one with Paraguay announced by the U.S. State Department in August that included a "safe third country" agreement in which asylum seekers currently in the U.S. could pursue protections in the South American nation.

In Trump's first term, the U.S. signed several such agreements that would instead have asylum seekers re-

quest protections in other nations, like Guatemala, before proceeding north. The policy was criticized as a roundabout way to make it harder for migrants to seek asylum in the U.S. and was later rolled back by the Biden administration.

Earlier this year, Panama and Costa Rica also accepted U.S. flights of hundreds of deportees from Asian countries — without calling the deals "safe third country" agreements — and thrusting the migrants into a sort



Belize Prime Minister John Briceno addresses the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Friday, Sept. 26, 2025. Associated Press

of international limbo. The U.S. has also signed agreements, such as deportation

agreements, with war-torn South Sudan, Eswatini and Rwanda. □

Greek government seeks to ban protests at Tomb of Unknown Soldier monument, sparking backlash

By ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greece's conservative government is seeking to ban protests at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, an iconic monument outside Parliament in Athens which has frequently been the site of demonstrations. Opposition parties accuse the prime minister of intolerance and of sowing division.

The area in front of the monument has become the focal point for protests by some of the relatives of victims of Greece's deadliest train crash. The February 2023 disaster, in which a freight train and a passenger train heading in opposite directions collided after being put on the same track, killed 57 people, mostly students returning to university after a public holiday.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' government submitted an amendment to the law governing the care of the monument that would allow access to visitors but ban protests or any physical changes to the area. Violators would face a fine or up to one year's imprisonment. The amendment triggered a heated parliamentary debate Tuesday, while a few hundred people turned out for a protest called by



Tourists watch the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Greek parliament, in Athens, Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025, as lawmakers debate regulations to protect the monument, recently the focus of protests by relatives of victims of Greece's deadliest train crash.

Associated Press

the left-wing Syriza party outside parliament in the evening. Voting on the bill was pushed to Wednesday morning after the Communist Party called for a roll call vote. With the governing conservatives holding a comfortable parliamentary majority, the amendment was expected to pass.

The train crash in Tempi, central Greece, exposed severe deficiencies in Greece's railway network, including in safety systems,

and triggered mass anti-government protests. Critics accuse authorities of failing to take political responsibility for the disaster or holding senior officials accountable. Some have also accused the government of a cover-up, claiming the freight train was carrying undeclared chemicals that caused a giant fireball which might have caused some of the deaths.

A makeshift memorial for the rail disaster victims has been

set up in the small square in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, with the names of the victims written in red paint on the ground, surrounded by candles and flowerpots.

Panos Ruci, whose 22-year-old son Denis was killed in the crash, recently staged a 23-day hunger strike camped out at the memorial, demanding his son's body be exhumed for toxicology and DNA tests to determine the exact cause of death. Ju-

dicial authorities granted permission in early October. "With respect to the parents, to those parents who chose this way to protest, I ask them to consider whether they are giving some unscrupulous politicians the opportunity to appropriate their grief," Mitsotakis said during the parliamentary debate.

The disaster has become a major political issue in Greece. Ruci's lawyer, Zoe Konstantopoulou, is the leader of a small left-wing party and a member of parliament.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a cenotaph in honor of those who died fighting for Greece, and a popular tourist stop for visitors wanting to see the hourly changing of the presidential guard. The government argues it is a national monument that must be protected.

"In this sacred area, gatherings and protests of any kind will not be allowed, ... nor will damage be tolerated in the name of any protest, no matter how reasonable the demands sound," Mitsotakis said.

"The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is not a board for posting demands, no matter how respectable they may be. It is a cenotaph," he added. □

Appeals court overturns conviction of Colombian ex-President Uribe for bribery and witness tampering



Alvaro Uribe, President of Colombia, speaks during a news conference in Lima, Peru, May 15, 2008.

Associated Press

By ASTRID SUÁREZ

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

An appeals court on Tuesday overturned the conviction of Colombian former President

Álvaro Uribe for bribery and witness tampering for which he had been sentenced to 12 years of house arrest. Uribe, 73, has denied any wrongdoing. He was sentenced in August following a nearly six-month trial in which prosecutors presented evidence that he attempted to influence witnesses who accused the law-and-order leader of having links to a paramilitary group in the 1990s.

The court on Tuesday said the conviction had "structural deficiencies," used vague premises and lacked comprehensive analysis. Two of the three judges on the

panel voted to overturn the conviction; the third thought it should be upheld.

Uribe, who governed from 2002 to 2010, has called his conviction political persecution, claiming that the judge was biased against him. In the appeal, his lawyers questioned the validity of the evidence and argued that the former president's responsibility was not "unequivocally" proven.

Prosecutors and victims can appeal Tuesday's ruling to Colombia's Supreme Court. The former president, who was free pending his appeal, watched the proceedings remotely via video link.

The case has energized both Uribe's supporters and critics, as the latest turn comes amid campaigning for next year's legislative and presidential elections in Colombia. Uribe's party, Democratic Center, has already said that Uribe will run for senator if his legal situation allows it. The original sentence included an 8-year ban on holding public office. Sen. Paloma Valencia, an Uribe supporter, wrote on X that she felt relieved by the latest decision.

"We have always trusted in his innocence, always defended his legacy and his good name," she said. □



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Unique fauna of Aruba



For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such



as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they



leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade

of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when



they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. □



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Beautiful areas around Aruba



(Oranjestad)—Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. Here are some of the most beautiful areas around Aruba.

The hidden Natural Bridge

Here in Aruba we have three natural bridges and many see this one on thinking that it's the world famous one but it's not. The why is easy, its way too dangerous to go down the cliff to reach this beauty and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down

due fear of height. To reach

this beauty you must go to San Nicolas and drive up the hill till The Point Lighthouse, park your car and walk until you reach the east point coast and go left along the coastline and good luck going down the cliff.

Surfside Beach

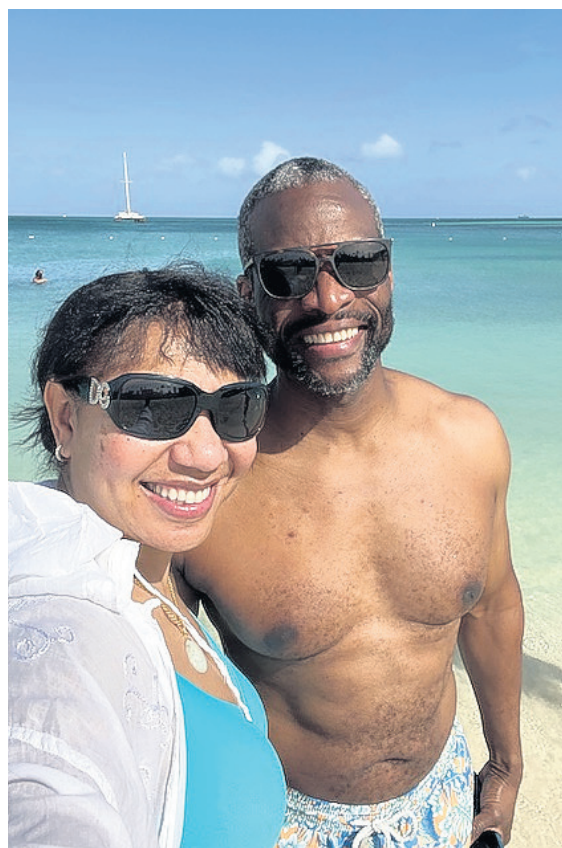
This beach was very famous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at



this beach. After some years the locals shifted to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but after the government renovated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

As mentioned, there are three natural bridges and this one is in the Arikok National Park. The other two Bridges you can visit by car but for this one you must have a 4X4 jeep or you will get stuck at the Andicuri Beach. □



Aruba to me: Fred & Donna

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Fred & Donna from Metuchen, New Jersey, USA. They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us is, 'Floating on Blue Waters'." It has been a good 15 plus years that my husband and I first visited Aruba. We try to take some time off each year to celebrate our wedding anniversary. Our most recent visit, 2024, was for our 36th anniversary.

I LOVE the beach. The day-to-day grind can be overwhelming and taxing at times, so the beach, to me, is a form of natural relaxation, peace and grounding

with natural surroundings. Living in the Northeast, although plenty of beaches, the waters are not blue and serene. So, to be able to spend time decompressing watching the waves, being in the water, floating seeing blue skies, feeling the sand between our toes, wind in our hair, moves us to a place of peace like not much else. When life is just a grind and becomes a bit too much for the day-to-day tolerance, Aruba is a place to let the ocean wash those cares away, even if only for just a short time.

Also, how could we leave out the food? Some of the best, hands down.

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is **"Bon bini."** Bon bini in Papiamento means **welcome**, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?" The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo"



(not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means **good morning**. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening

hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means **"good afternoon"**. "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much".

Dining in? Try making some local favorites! How to make "pan bati"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal (we recommend the Harina PAN brand)
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried



fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top!



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Episode CCCXXVI-326

Rooted in Aruba: Flora, Identity, and the Call to Preserve

The narrative of Etnia Nativa—centered on Aruba's native ethnicity—highlights the importance of recovering and preserving the island's maternal cultural identity and the natural heritage we've inherited, including its iconic rocks.

We share an authentic native perspective, educate the public, and inspire readers to adopt an 'island caretaker mindset.'

In this episode, we explore Aruba's native cacti.

Aruba's flora paints the island with a rugged yet captivating beauty. From the diverse agave species to the towering candelabra cacti and low-lying Opuntia bushes, native vegetation forms the backbone of the island's landscape. These plants do far more than shape the scenery—they provide essential habitats for native animals, form wildlife corridors, prevent erosion by anchoring the soil after rain, and help mitigate the greenhouse effect.

Despite suffering severe decline since colonial times, Aruba's arid climate still nurtures a surprisingly rich variety of native plant species. These resilient plants are well adapted to the island's dry, rocky terrain and have played a vital role in its ecological, social, and cultural sustainability.

Aruba's native flora is deeply woven into the island's cultural fabric. These plants are not merely artistic silhouettes on the sunset—they are living symbols of national identity. Preserving this entire species means protecting the island's natural heritage for future generations. The thorny bushes, hardy trees, and iconic cacti may not be abundant in species or variety, but their presence is unmistakable and essential.

Among them, succulents—especially cacti—hold a prominent place. Their fruits and night-blooming flowers provide critical nourishment for a wide range of local wildlife, including birds, bats, reptiles, moths, and bees. Their seeds are dispersed naturally by wind and wildlife, ensuring the continuation of their species.

Three species of candelabra (or organ pipe) cacti dominate Aruba's wild landscape:

Stenocereus griseus – This cactus grows straight up, branching near the base. Its thorns are arranged in neat rosettes, giving it a symmetrical appearance.

Cereus repandus – Known locally as Breba, this is the largest of the three. It resembles a tree more than a typical cactus, branching out higher from the ground. Its thorns form dense, outward-pointing rows.

Pilosocereus lanuginosus – Locally called Cadushi di Plushi, this cactus stands out with its long white hairs and yellow prickles at the tips of its branches.

These cacti bloom under the cover of night, feeding nectar-hungry bats and birds and playing a vital role in maintaining Aruba's delicate ecosystem.

Aruba is also home of two varieties of melon cactus, four species of Opuntia, commonly called Tuna, one



species of *Acanthocereus*, known locally as Cushicuri or Cadushi di Colebra (Snake Cactus), *Pereskia guamacho*, an unusual cactus with leaves, known as *Azufro phosphorus*.

In addition, the island hosts around eight species of Agave, several Bromeliads, and a wide variety of xerophytic plants—all perfectly adapted to Aruba's dry climate.

Preserving Aruba's Green Legacy

Aruba's wild flora is more than a backdrop—it's a living testament to the is-

land's resilience and natural beauty. By understanding and protecting these native plants, especially its succulents, we can ensure that Aruba's unique landscapes continue to thrive for generations to come.

Stay tuned for more as we dive deeper into the world of Aruba's succulents in this new episode—uncovering their hidden stories, ecological importance, and cultural significance.

Explore Aruba's Roots at Etnia Nativa
If you've enjoyed discovering our ancestral stories and want to delve deeper into the true identity of the Aruban people, we invite you to experience Etnia Nativa—the Caribbean's only "living museum" of its kind, celebrating the island's rich mestizaje (cultural blending). □

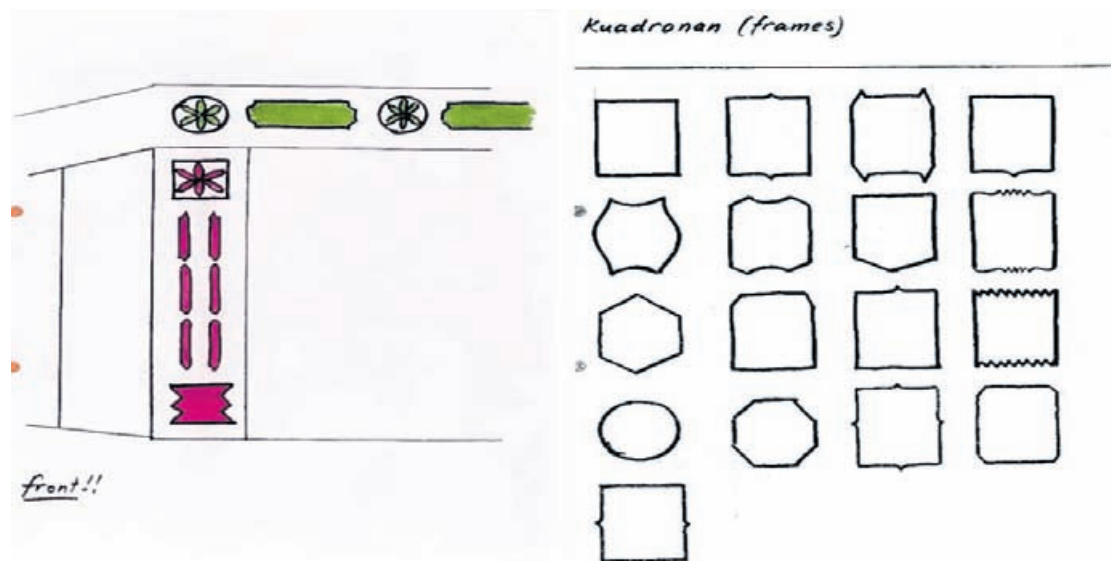


Founded in 1994, Etnia Nativa has been a cultural pioneer—co-founding Aruba's National Park, the Archaeological Museum, artisan foundations, and several grassroots initiatives dedicated to heritage and conservation. But Etnia Nativa isn't just a place — it's a gateway. Quietly tucked away near the high-rise hotels, this private residence also serves as a cultural sanctuary, unknown to most tourists. And that's part of its magic. Intentionally exclusive, it welcomes only those with a genuine curiosity and a thirst for authentic discovery.

Connect with the spirit and soul of Aruba's ancient heritage through a one-of-a-kind experience.

WhatsApp: +297 592 2702 or
Email: etnianativa03@gmail.com

Cas Floria: The Decorated Houses of Aruba



(Oranjestad)—There may be as many as 200 to 300 houses in Aruba that have beautiful decorations, including curtains, stars, flowers, half-moons, etc., placed on the corners or the upper parts of the house.

These houses can be found everywhere, in nearly every district of Aruba. People always thought that these designs came from an Indigenous culture; possibly, the star design resembled the way it was shown, similar to the "God Sun" of the Indigenous people. However, the history of this decorative system does not go very far back in time.

In his book *Millefiori di Aruba*, Father Nooyen declares that the first house to receive this type of decoration was the

home of Mr. Bernardo Eman Croes in Pos Chikito. Julien (Janchi) Christiaans and Gregorio (Goy) Semeleer built this house in 1920 and created the decorations on the upper corners of the house. Other people in Pos Chikito, who saw this beautiful work, also wanted their houses decorated in the same way. Leoncio (Joonchi) Henricus of Pos Chikito learned the work from Janchi Christiaans and, together with his son Bonifacio (Bonny) Henricus, continued decorating houses in Pos Chikito and Sabana Basora.

Janchi Christiaans, Goy Semeleer, and others from Noord, such as Hilario Christiaans, Victor Tromp, Gerardo Jacobs, and Cornelis Rosa, brought the same

decoration to houses in Noord and Paradera. In 1927, Janchi Christiaans built a house for Julian Tromp in Buguruy.

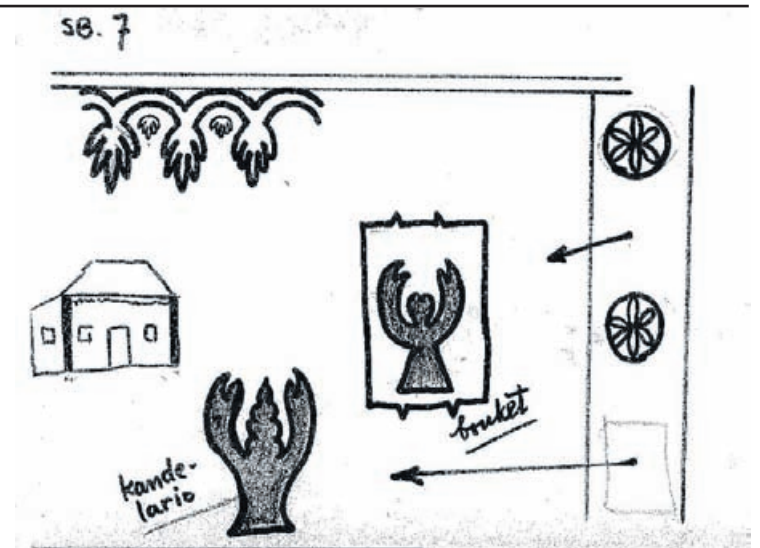
This was the first house in Noord to receive this type of decoration. Later, those in Paradera, Santa Cruz, and Savaneta copied the house decorations. They practiced these systems up until 1944.

Even today, the patterns are well preserved and protected, but they are no longer used.

Janchi Christiaans began cutting the patterns out of zinc plates and cardboard. He also had his own creations and systems, while Leoncio and Bonifacio Henricus produced their own fantasies. This is what made these decorations popular: many people could turn their imagination into expressive art.

However, the decoration of houses was not originally Janchi Christiaans's idea. Janchi was a disciple of his father, Hose Christiaans, and of the Donati family, from Italian ancestors. They also made these decorations, though without using any patterns, simply designing and applying them with common plaster as the material.

Using Dr. Johan Hartog's *Aruba, Breve Historia* as reference, I noticed that he also writes that these designs are not Indigenous symbols, but only decorative fantasies. One point of disagreement is that he wrote that in 1820 someone from Curaçao began this type of decoration



in Aruba.

This means that, according to Father Nooyen, who declared that it began in 1920, it would have actually started 100 years earlier. As part of his research, Ito Tromp also interviewed Mr. Julio Maduro of the Department of Labor at that time, who told him that around 1880 Johannes (Janchi) Wolff began with house decorations. And as Janchi himself said, he learned this from his grandfather, who in earlier times had built the first light-house at California Point.

After comparing his information, Ito Tromp wrote that Hartog was right concerning the period when decorated houses began in Aruba in 1820. However, it was not people from Curaçao who started it. Victor Tromp, who was 87 years old at the time of writing, was a member of Janchi Wolff's family.

Julio Maduro said that in 1920 they began again with this type of decoration. In general, there is no specific year (up to now) when Arubans first began with this decorative artistic expression. It is interesting to know that these decorations are a kind of symbol for several generations.

For example: Decorations that appear on the house of

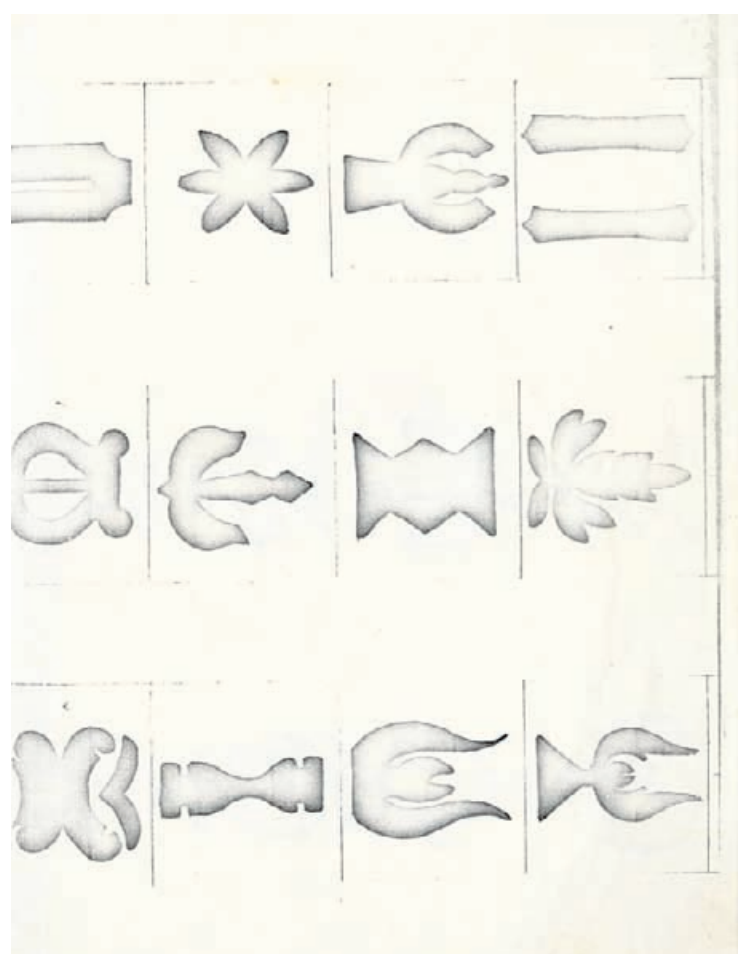
the Arends family could also be seen on the houses of the Bermudez or Croes families. This was because parents always gave a specific sign to their sons or daughters when they were getting married. It was also said that these designs had a certain kind of voodoo purpose, to keep away the spirits of the Indigenous people who were buried in the neighborhoods where the houses now stand. However, this has almost completely disappeared.

As for the continuation of these designs from family to family, this is a cultural heritage that is no longer established. For this reason, in earlier times, every young man who married had to have his own house; otherwise, there would be no marriage.

The designs were created according to the individual's imagination. If he saw, for example, six pairs of birds on a tree, he would then paint six pairs of birds on a tree. If he wanted to express his love for his twin children, then he designed a twin.

Nowadays, if you want to use these designs for your house, don't worry—you can simply copy them and paint them. □

Source: *E casnan Decora na Aruba (1976)* by Ito Tromp



CROSSWORD

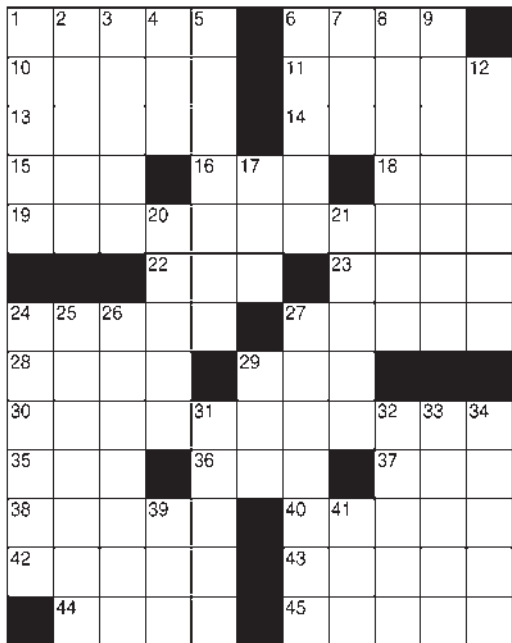
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Digging tool
6 Chest muscles, for short
10 Hayride transport
11 Visibly shocked
13 On — (trying to lose)
14 Be very successful
15 Sprint
16 Fury
18 Stretch of years
19 They might include rabbits or cards
22 Bee follower
23 Like stallions
24 Baseball's Roger
27 Merchandise
28 Genesis garden
29 Droop
30 Rewards for Fido
35 S&L offering
36 Building wing
37 Halloween cry
38 To the time that

DOWN

- 1 Bee group
2 "The Taming of the Shrew" city
3 Getting on
4 Buck's mate
5 Tempts
6 Pocket beeper
7 Sense of self
8 Spot for snacks on a train
9 Glisten
12 Wipes off
17 Numbered hwy.
20 Cake coating
21 Mirror sight
24 T-shirt size
25 Decorated
26 Yacht contest
27 Spell caster
29 Cardinal cap letters
31 Cries
32 Ease up
33 Game piece
34 Flies high
39 "— a Rock"
41 Take to court



10-30

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

TA HZM VKLBQLCY SE OA

HZJOTR, RSOMHZLCY NLBQMU

HZLR NGA BSOMR. — NLWWLGO

RZGQMRVMGKM, "OGBTMHZ"

Cryptoquote: I'LL STOP WEARING BLACK WHEN THEY MAKE A DARKER COLOR. — WEDNESDAY ADDAMS, "THE ADDAMS FAMILY"



Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 14 - 26 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	14	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	15	SERENADE OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
FRI	17	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	07.00	17.00	C	1
SUN	19	NORWEGIAN ESCAPE CARIBBEAN PRINCESS FREEWINDS - Dept.	07.00 09.00 ****	17.00 22.00 22.30	B C E	1 1 -
TUE	21	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 07.00 06.00	23.00 16.00 ****	C I E	1 1 1
THU	23	EURODAM	08.00	17.00	C	1
SUN	26	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

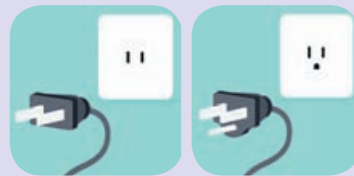
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



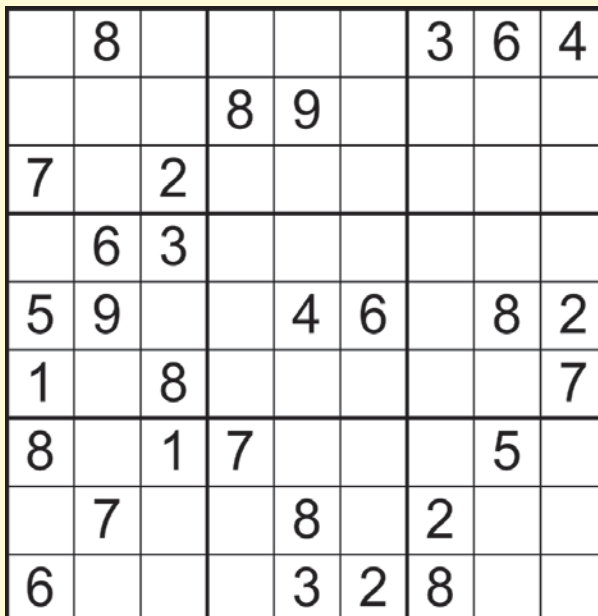
Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★

10/22

Answer to previous puzzle

2	5	4	8	3	6	7	1	9
8	3	7	4	1	9	5	2	6
6	1	9	2	7	5	3	4	8
1	4	3	7	9	8	2	6	5
5	6	8	3	4	2	9	7	1
9	7	2	6	5	1	4	8	3
3	2	1	5	8	7	6	9	4
7	8	5	9	6	4	1	3	2
4	9	6	1	2	3	8	5	7

Difficulty: ★★

10/21

OpenAI launches web browser to compete with Google Chrome



The OpenAI logo appears on a mobile phone in front of a screen showing part of the company website in this photo taken on Nov. 21, 2023 in New York.

By **MATT O'BRIEN** and
MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writers

OpenAI said Tuesday it is introducing its own web browser, Atlas, putting the ChatGPT maker in direct competition with Google as more internet users rely on artificial intelligence to answer their questions.

Making itself a gateway to online searches could allow OpenAI, the world's most valuable startup, to pull in more internet traffic and the revenue made from digital advertising.

OpenAI has said ChatGPT already has more than 800 million users but many of them get it for free. The San Francisco-based company is losing more money than it makes and has been looking for ways to turn a profit.

OpenAI said Atlas launches Tuesday on Apple laptops and will later come to Microsoft's Windows, Apple's iOS phone operating system and Google's Android phone system.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman called it a "rare, once-a-decade opportunity to re-think what a browser can be about and how to use one." OpenAI's browser is coming out just a few months after one of its executives testified that the company would be interested in buying Google's industry-leading Chrome browser if a federal

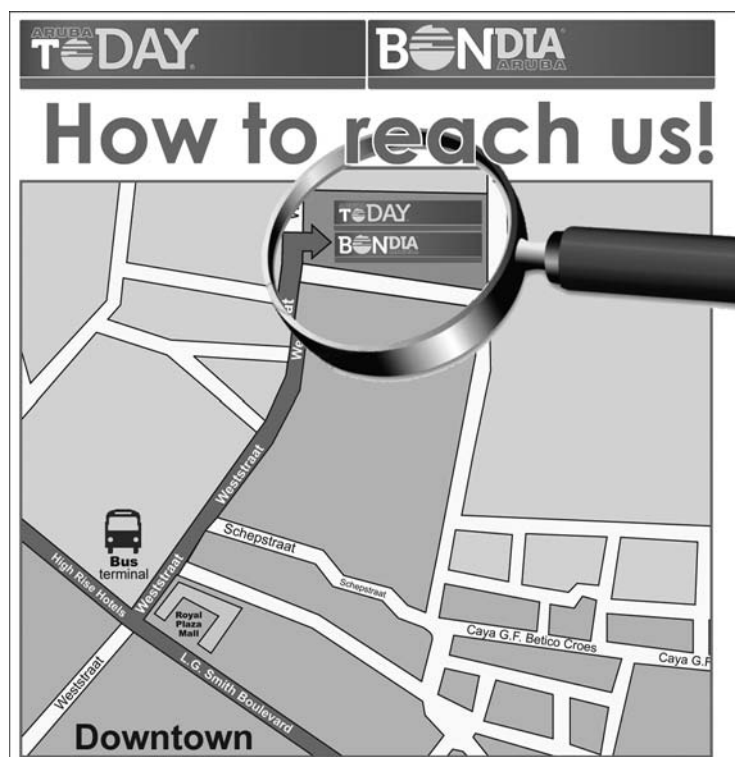
judge had required it to be sold to prevent the abuses that resulted in Google's ubiquitous search engine being declared an illegal monopoly.

But U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta last month issued a decision that rejected the Chrome sale sought by the U.S. Justice Department in the monopoly case, partly because he believed advances in the AI industry already are reshaping the competitive landscape. OpenAI's browser will face a daunting challenge against Chrome, which has amassed about 3 billion worldwide users and has been adding some AI features from

Google's Gemini technology. Chrome's immense success could provide a blueprint for OpenAI as it enters the browser market. When Google released Chrome in 2008, Microsoft's Internet Explorer was so dominant that few observers believed a new browser could mount a formidable threat.

But Chrome quickly won over legions of admirers by loading webpages more quickly than Internet Explorer while offering other advantages that enabled it to upend the market. Microsoft ended up abandoning Explorer and introducing its Edge browser, which operates similarly to Chrome. Perplexity, another

Associated Press



smaller AI startup, rolled out its own Comet browser earlier this year. It also expressed interest in buying Chrome and eventually submitted an unsolicited \$34.5 billion offer for the browser that hit a dead end when Mehta decided against a Google breakup. Altman said he expects a chatbot interface to replace a traditional browser's URL bar as the center of how he hopes people will use the internet in the future.

"Tabs were great, but we haven't seen a lot of browser innovation since then," he said on a video presentation aired Tuesday.

A premium feature of the ChatGPT Atlas browser is an "agent mode" that accesses the laptop and effectively clicks around the internet on the person's behalf, armed with what it has learned from users' browser history and what they are seeking to learn and explaining its process as it searches.

"It's using the internet for you," Altman said. □



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San Nicolas:

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Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Movie Review: Jeremy Allen White is a tortured Boss in 'Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere'

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

In his 500-page memoir, "Born to Run," Bruce Springsteen spends less than three pages on the making of his 1982 album "Nebraska." Moving on, folks, nothing to see here, he seems to be saying.

The first authorized biopic of his life — "Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere" — disagrees, delving deep into the inner turmoil The Boss was dealing with during its recording and then surfacing with an endearing, humbling portrait of an icon by a soulful Jeremy Allen White.

With heavy-lidded eyes and his head nearly almost cocked at an angle, White gives us a wretched Springsteen, open-mouthed in ecstasy when playing live but sunken in his leather jacket while roaming the streets. He sucks on his harmonica as if it could release him from pain itself. To be honest, White hasn't stepped much out of his hangdog, tortured sweet spot. He's the chair of the Tortured Poets Department. The anti-commercial "Nebraska" is not the first album you might think of when you imagine pivotal Springsteen albums. "Born to Run" was made on the verge of him being cut by Columbia Records. "Born in the U.S.A." turned him into a global superstar.

Scott Cooper, the film's di-



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Jeremy Allen White as Bruce Springsteen in a scene from "Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere."

rector and screenwriter, finds "Nebraska," nestled between those albums, to be the more enlightening. It seemed painfully pulled through Springsteen and deposited on a rudimentary four-track cassette recorder in a rented house in Colts Neck, New Jersey. Springsteen wants it released as is, imperfections and miscues intact.

"Nebraska" may be a masterpiece but it's not an easy listen, filled with broken and desperate people, killers, heavy drinkers, inmates and folks pushed to the edge by poverty and hopelessness. "Definitely not 'Hungry Heart,'" says the tech who helped record it.

"It's not about capturing sounds as much as ideas," Springsteen tells his manager, Jon Landau, played lovingly by "Succession" star Jeremy Strong. "I'm just trying to find something real in all the noise."

This Landau, who quotes Flannery O'Connor and adores Sam Cooke, is almost saintly in his devotion to Springsteen, even if he's not sure where the songs are coming from. We all need someone like Landau — endlessly encouraging, creating creative space for his client and beating back the suits.

The record executives are, naturally, aghast at "Nebraska," which is called a "highly

unorthodox career move." They want radio hits not acoustic doodles of felons. "It sounds like an accident. It sounds unfinished," record honcho Al Teller declares. The movie — built from a book by Warren Zanes and featuring vocals that mix White's and Springsteen's — is a meditation on creativity in battle with commerciality, the yearn to run from home and also the inescapable pull of family. "I'm lost here. I'm buried here," Springsteen wails.

Though grounded in the weeks during the making of "Nebraska," the script moves back in time to show scenes from Bruce's early life. A drive to his old house dissolves into

black-and-white memories of Springsteen's father ("Adolescence" creator-star Stephen Graham, fearsome) being violent and drunk. Their complicated relationship is thoughtfully handled. (The movie is dedicated to Cooper's dad.)

As if that's not enough, Springsteen's love life is explored through a composite character, Faye, a single mom and waitress who falls for a guy incapable at this time of settling down. Odesa Young is astonishing — half tough Jersey chick, half melting when The Boss stops by. "I know you're scared," she tells him.

There are also special moments for true Springsteen fans, like the time a young Bruce visits a graceful old house that will, of course, be the inspiration for "Mansion on a Hill." Or the moment when Springsteen edits his "Nebraska" lyrics, changing "he" to "I."

The film rather courageously culminates with a call for Springsteen to get mental health help, which he does. We soon realize that what we've been watching for two hours is a man's gradual breakdown, not what most biopics of superstars would pull the curtain back on. In many ways, this movie is, then, a mirror of "Nebraska" itself — unexpected, complicated and very American gothic. □



Kenny Loggins performs at the 2023 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival on April 30, 2023.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kenny Loggins is objecting to the use of his music in a social media post showing an artificial intelligence-generat-

ed video of President Donald Trump dumping excrement from a fighter jet on last weekend's "No Kings" protests.

Loggins demands removal of Trump's AI-generated video using 'Danger Zone'

The video, posted Saturday night on the Republican president's Truth Social platform, was accompanied by Loggins' song "Danger Zone," which appears on the soundtrack of the blockbuster 1986 Tom Cruise fighter pilot movie "Top Gun." Loggins, in a statement Monday on his website, said he was not asked for permission and called for the video to be removed.

"I can't imagine why anybody would want their music used or associated with something created with

the sole purpose of dividing us," Loggins wrote. "Too many people are trying to tear us apart, and we need to find new ways to come together. We're all Americans, and we're all patriotic."

As of Tuesday morning, the video remained on Truth Social. Numerous musicians, including Adele and Bruce Springsteen, have objected over the past decade to Trump's use of their material at campaign rallies and elsewhere.

Representatives for Loggins responded to The Associ-

ated Press' request for additional comment Tuesday by reissuing his statement from the day before. The White House responded to a request for comment with a still from "Top Gun" with the caption "I FEEL THE NEED FOR SPEED," paraphrasing one of the film's famous lines.

Trump has used music on AI videos at other times, including Blue Oyster Cult's "Don't Fear the Reaper" on a post in early October about Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought. □



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SETAR

Angels outfielder Mike Trout testifies he loved late teammate Skaggs and saw no signs of drug use

By AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout testified Tuesday that he loved his teammate Tyler Skaggs like a brother and never saw signs of drug use before he died of an overdose on a team trip to Texas in 2019.

Trout, a three-time American League Most Valuable Player who hit his 400th career home run this year, took the stand in a civil trial in Southern California over whether the MLB team should be held responsible for its communication director Eric Kay giving Skaggs a fentanyl-laced pill that led to his death.

Trout, who acknowledged he didn't like speaking in public, told the courtroom about his friendship with Skaggs from the time they roomed together as rookies in Iowa and through playing for the Angels. Both were drafted out of high school as teens in 2009 — Trout from New Jersey, and Skaggs from California.

Skaggs was "very funny, outgoing, fun to be around" and toted around a boom box as the team's deejay, Trout said.



Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout stands on the field before a baseball game against the Houston Astros, Sept. 27, 2025, in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press

Trout also said Kay was good at his job, getting players to give interviews and guiding them on which questions they might be asked. At one point, however, Trout said a clubhouse attendant suggested the players should stop paying Kay for stunts he was pulling like taking a fastball to the leg, shaving off his

eyebrows and eating a pimple off Trout's back due to concerns the money might be used for a "bad purpose." Trout said he had seen Kay acting wired and sweating and "the first thing that came to mind was drugs." "I just didn't know what it was," Trout told the court, adding he approached Kay and

told him if he needed anything to let him know.

The testimony came at the trial for a wrongful death lawsuit filed by Skaggs' wife, Carli, and his parents, who contend the Angels made a series of reckless decisions that gave Kay access to MLB players when he was addicted to drugs and

dealing them. The team has countered that Skaggs was also drinking heavily and his actions occurred on his own time and in the privacy of his hotel room when he died.

The trial comes more than six years after 27-year-old Skaggs was found dead in the suburban Dallas hotel room where he was staying as the Angels were supposed to open a four-game series against the Texas Rangers. A coroner's report says Skaggs choked to death on his vomit and that a toxic mix of alcohol, fentanyl and oxycodone was found in his system.

Kay was convicted in 2022 of providing Skaggs with a counterfeit oxycodone pill laced with fentanyl and sentenced to 22 years in federal prison. His federal criminal trial in Texas included testimony from five MLB players who said they received oxycodone from Kay at various times from 2017 to 2019, the years he was accused of obtaining pills and giving them to Angels players.

The family is seeking \$118 million for Skaggs' lost earnings, compensation for pain and suffering and punitive damages against the team. □

Angels have decided to hire former catcher Kurt Suzuki as their next manager, AP source says

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Los Angeles Angels have decided to hire former major league catcher Kurt Suzuki as their next manager, a person with knowledge of the negotiations tells The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the Angels had not finalized or announced the deal with Suzuki, who has spent the past three seasons as a special as-

sistant to Angels general manager Perry Minasian. Suzuki played 16 seasons in the major leagues for five teams, earning an All-Star selection with Minnesota in 2014 and winning a World Series with Washington in 2019.

Suzuki finished his career with two years in Anaheim, retiring after the 2022 season. Suzuki also won the College World Series while playing for Cal State Fullerton, located a few miles from Angel Stadium.

The 42-year-old Suzuki would replace Ron Washington, who wasn't brought back to the Angels' dugout after two losing seasons. Washington missed the second half of the current season after undergoing quadruple bypass heart surgery.

The Angels pivoted to Suzuki and fellow special assistant Torii Hunter as their top candidates after talks with former slugger Albert Pujols broke down in recent days. Pujols, who has a per-



Los Angeles Angels catcher Kurt Suzuki gestures as he leaves a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics during the first inning in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

sonal services contract with the Angels, was the early front-runner for the job as a longtime favorite of owner

Arte Moreno.

Pujols and Suzuki both have no major league coaching experience. □

Bill Belichick among final 12 coaches for Pro Football Hall of Fame 2026 class

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

Six-time Super Bowl winning head coach Bill Belichick advanced to the final 12 coaches in running for the 2026 class for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Belichick is in his first year of eligibility after rule changes put in place last year requiring coaches only to be out of the NFL for one full season before being considered for the Hall.

Two-time Super Bowl champion coaches Tom Coughlin, Mike Shanahan and George Seifert also advanced, along with another Super Bowl winner in Mike Holmgren.

The other coaches in the running are Bill Arnsparger, Alex Gibbs, Chuck Knox,



New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy as he celebrates after the Patriots defeated the Seattle Seahawks 28-24 in NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

Buddy Parker, Dan Reeves, Marty Schottenheimer and Clark Shaughnessy.

A blue-ribbon committee will reduce the field to nine semifinalists next month and eventually down to one finalist. Holmgren earned that spot last year but fell short in the final vote. The coach will be grouped with one contributor and three seniors candidates. Between one and three of those five finalists will make it to the Hall based on getting at least 80% of the votes from the full committee.

Belichick was the architect of the New England Patriots dynasty in the 2000s, leading the franchise to six Super Bowl titles and three other appearances in the game during an 18-year span from 2001-18. Belichick's 333 wins in the regular season and playoffs with New England and Cleveland are the second-most to Don Shula's 347.

Belichick also was one the game's top defensive assistants before taking over New England, winning two more Super Bowls as defensive coordinator for the New York Giants.

Belichick's tenure in New England ended following the 2023 season and he is now coaching in college at North Carolina with a team that is 2-4 in his first season.

Belichick, Coughlin, Shanahan and Seifert are among the 14 coaches who have won multiple Super Bowls. Nine of those coaches are already in, with Andy Reid still active as the other.

Coughlin coached 20 years for Jacksonville and the New York Giants. He led the Jaguars to the AFC title game in their second season as a franchise and back again in the 1999 season. But his greatest success came after taking over the Giants in 2004.

He led the franchise to a Super Bowl title in the 2007 season when New York upset the undefeated Patriots and then knocked off Belichick, Tom Brady and New England again four

years later. Coughlin finished with a 170-150 regular-season record.

Seifert helped San Francisco win two titles as a defensive coordinator under Bill Walsh and then two more as head coach after taking over for Walsh in 1989.

He won at least 10 games in all eight seasons in charge of the 49ers with his 98-30 record (.766) the best for any coach on a single team with at least 100 games. But he was unable to duplicate that success in three seasons with Carolina, going 16-32.

Shanahan was the offensive coordinator under Seifert on San Francisco's 1994 championship team and then won back-to-back titles as head coach in Denver in 1997-98. Shanahan finished with a 170-138 record for the Raiders, Broncos and Washington and his impact on the game is still strong today through his disciples, including his son, Kyle, who coaches San Francisco.

Four other current NFL head coaches worked under Shanahan in Washington — Sean McVay, Mike McDaniels, Matt LaFleur and Raheem Morris — and the offensive system he brought into the league that tied the outside zone run with the passing game is still the most prevalent in the league today.

Gibbs was the long-time offensive line coach for Shanahan in Denver and helped implement the zone-running scheme that was the foundation of the offense.

Holmgren preceded Shanahan as offensive coordinator in San Francisco and also had a big impact on future coaches with Reid and Jon Gruden going on to win Super Bowls after working under Holmgren in Green Bay. Holmgren had a 161-111 record for the Packers and Seahawks, winning the title in 1996. He also got to the Super Bowl the following season in Green Bay and then again in the 2005 season in Seattle. □

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